

Columbia County Emergency Notification System

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office has come together with other county agencies including EMA, GIS, Traffic Engineering and Water Departments to provide a proactive, cost saving public notification system. Certain situations warrant notification of people based solely on their physical location. Some examples of these situations would be missing persons, fugitives at large, HAZMAT incidents, water main breaks, severe weather situations and road closures. In these instances, the GeoCast® Web™ solution from Cassidian Communications provides us with immediate, map-driven communication that seamlessly combines all phone and GIS data to rapidly deliver incident-related information or instruction to target audiences. This system also has full TTY/TTD capabilities, ensuring messages are delivered to the hearing impaired.

Currently, the Emergency Notification System includes both public and private landline telephone data. However, based on recent communication trends, we have identified gaps in successful notifications. Individuals that rely solely on mobile phones or VoIP phones (voice over IP or internet phones), will not receive these notifications. As a result, Cassidian has provided the Self-Registration Portal (SRP), which allows individuals to register their phone and email addresses to receive these notifications based on validated county addresses. If you would like to register your mobile phone, VoIP phone and email address, please follow the instructions below.

Self-Registration Portal Instructions

- Browse to web address <https://columbiacountyso.onthealert.com>
NOTE: (Temporarily turn off your popup blocker so that you can view the map.)
- Read and agree to the Terms and Conditions.
- Fill in the First and Last Name fields.
- In the Address field, use the format '123 Washington Rd' without any punctuation. You may need to fill in the City and Zip Code fields before a pin will appear on the map. After you see the red pin, scroll in to get a closer look at the exact location of the pin. Once zoomed in, change to view the 'Hybrid' map that will display the road name and aerial photography. Right click on the red pin and move it to pinpoint your house. If the pin appears too large, zoom in for a better pinpoint location.
- Fill in the fields for your contact information.
NOTE: (Mobile Phones or VoIP phones are the only numbers that need to be registered through the portal. All land lines are already included in our notification system. The email address you provide will be used as your username.)
- Finish registering by confirming your username, password and the 2 displayed words that help with preventing spammers.
- Once registered, you must confirm the registration by clicking on a link in an automated email sent to the same email address used as your username.
NOTE: (New registrations are approved, exported and activated every Monday by 12:00 PM.)